

CLASSIFICATION SECRET

COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

TOPIC Kummersdorf Bomb Range

EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED

3 December 1954

REFERENCES

25X1

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURE (NO. &amp; TYPE)

25X1

REMARKS

This is UNEVALUATED  
Information

1. During the period of 17 August to 1 September 1954, no training flights were made over Kummersdorf bomb range except for 25 August, when Il-28s practiced flying without bombing. There was a southwesterly wind and a slightly scattered cloud base. Alert was sounded at 0600. At about 0800, 2 Il-28s came from the north at a medium altitude and approached the targets in Jagen (forest sub-district) 105/106. At a distance of about 2,000 meters from the target, one plane turned to the west and the other plane to the east. After flying a second bank, the aircraft attacked the targets and flew partially between the clouds. These flights were repeated 2 or 3 times. This procedure was repeated by 2 Il-28s every 90 minutes between 0800 and 1530. All the aircraft involved flew without auxiliary fuel tanks. No angular metal radar reflectors were seen near the targets. 25X1
2. At 0615 on 5 September, an alert was sounded at Kummersdorf bombing range. There was a southwesterly wind and a light cloud base. At about 0730, an Il-28 approached from the southeast and made a level flight while dropping a bomb over the target in the AA gun emplacements in Jagen 105/106. Subsequently, the Il-28 made a wide bank to the west and south and returned from the southeast to release another bomb. This procedure was repeated. Subsequently, the aircraft headed west. It turned to the north after some time. After 5 to 10 minutes, the next Il-28 appeared and dropped 3 bombs in the same way. Between 0730 and about 1700, individual Il-28s continuously attacked targets in Jagen 105/106. The bombs presumably hit the targets fairly well. The release of the bombs could not be observed due to the high flight altitude. About 15 to 16 seconds elapsed from the beginning of the whining sound of the bomb to the detonation. 25X1
3. About 1300 on 16 October, 3 Il-10s appeared over Kummersdorf bomb range at an altitude of about 1,000 meters and crossed over the AA targets in Jagen 120 and 109. The aircraft flew side-by-side at about 50 meters apart. They banked via southwest, regained their approaching course and then dived straight over the targets in Jagen 120. The dive started about 1.8 km in front of the targets and the aircraft pulled out of their dive 40 to 50 meters over the targets. The 3 aircraft each simultaneously released a heavy bomb. About 25 to 30 seconds elapsed between the release

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of the bombs and their detonations. After dropping the bombs, the Il-10s again climbed to 300 or 400 meters and repeated the same attack. Each aircraft released only 2 bombs. After bombing, the aircraft practiced firing with aircraft weapons at the same targets. The aircraft flew in line abreast formation and dived from an altitude of 250 to 300 meters. On the fourth approach, each plane fired a round which caused a hissing sound. At the same time, a black cloud about 70 cm in diameter was seen which quickly dissipated. About 1.5 seconds later, a detonation was heard similar to that of a 1-kg bomb. This detonation was not accompanied by mushroomed smoke or a jet of fire. After the fourth attack, the 3 aircraft headed to the southwest. The described practice was repeated every 25 to 30 minutes between 1300 and 1700. All of the Il-10s involved had a yellow marking on their rudder assemblies.

4. Between 28 October and 2 November, no bomb practices were made over Kummersdorf bomb range, except on 30 October between 1100 and 1200 when several jet bombers crossed over Kummersdorf at very high altitudes. A bomb splinter was found next to a bomb crater which was hit by a bomb dropped from an Il-10<sup>2</sup>. The crater which was about 1.5 meters deep and with an upper diameter of 4 to 5 meters, was on woody soil covered with thick grass. The bomb craters observed near the tank dummies which served as targets had been hit 2 or 3 weeks before.

5. During the night of 10 September, bombing was practiced from individual and unidentified aircraft. One aircraft missed the targets at the bomb range and dropped 3 bombs over Fern-Neuendorf where one dwelling house and a barn were destroyed.

6. About 2130 on 10 September, an aircraft released 2 bombs too early while practicing over the Kummersdorf bomb range. The bombs hit stables in Fern-Neuendorf. Cattle were injured and the window panes of the neighboring farm broken. The bomb crater was about 40 cm square and 1 meter deep. A commission of Soviet officers inspected the place of accident during the same night. Bombing over Kummersdorf continued until 0030.

1. Comment. The bomb practices on 16 October 1954 were probably performed by aircraft of the ground attack regiment in Brandenburg-Briest. The aircraft of this regiment are marked by a yellow upper edge on their rudder assemblies. The bombs detonated with a considerable delay. On the fourth approach, rockets were used.

2. Comment: The bomb splinter is being retained by Sovmat

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